

S0687 Schechter, Maurice, Papers, 1919-1977

68 Folders

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The Maurice Schechter Papers were donated by Maurice Schechter on January 26, 1995.

Schechter was born in St. Louis, Missouri on June 27, 1907. He was educated in the East St. Louis, Illinois, public school system before attending Washington University and City College of Law and Finance where he earned his law degree.

Schechter was first elected to the Missouri House of Representatives in 1934 and served until 1940 when he left to establish his law career in St. Louis as one of the founding partners of Russell, Schechter, Weiss, and Ens. He worked for the law firm from the late 1950s until he retired in the early 1980s. In 1960, Schechter was elected to the Missouri Senate, representing the 13th District as a Democrat for the next sixteen years. He offered amendments to proposed legislation so frequently that other senators began referring to the process as 'Schechterizing' a bill.

Schechter was a member of various organizations including the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the American Bar Association, the Missouri Bar Association, the St. Louis Bar Association, the Lawyers Association of St. Louis, the Congregation B'nai Amoona, the Scottish Rite Masons, the Moolah Temple Shrine, and charter member and first president of the Creve Coeur Township Democratic Club.

Schechter married Bess Regin on June 28, 1931. Married for sixty-nine years, they produced two children, Stanley I. Schechter and Judith Kay Siegel. They also have five grandchildren, Deborah Jean Schechter, Elizabeth Ellen Schechter, Nancee Hope Siegel, Stephen Scott Siegel, and Susan Faith Siegel, and nine great-grandchildren.

Schechter died on January 31, 2001 at Missouri Baptist Medical Center from complications of pneumonia. He is buried at Chesed Shel Emeth Cemetery No. 2 in Creve Coeur, Missouri.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Maurice Schechter Papers include law cases from 1919-1977 and various awards given to Schechter from 1929-1976. Together they chronicle Schechter's career as a lawyer, Missouri Representative, and Missouri Senator.

This collection is divided into two series: (1) Case files and (2) Awards.

SERIES DESCRIPTION SERIES 1 ' CASE FILES

This series includes 68 folders of law cases from 1919-1977. Topics include alimony, prenuptial agreements, bills of sale, jury instructions, living trust agreements, malpractice, liens, personal injury, occupational hazards, power of attorney, quiet title, and trademarks.

Arranged alphabetically.

SERIES 2 ' AWARDS

This series contains ten awards, a poster signed by Missouri Senators, and a photocopy of Maurice Schechter's biographical information from the Official Manual State of Missouri, 1969-1970. Awards include: license to practice law in Missouri, 1928; certificate to practice law, 1929; Bar Association of St. Louis Bicentennial Award, 1965; Circuit Court of the City of St. Louis Outstanding Service Award, 1967; the St. Louis Suburban Teachers Association Award, 1967; Missouri Society for Crippled Children and Adults Certificate of Appreciation, 1968; the St. Louis Globe-Democrat Award, 1970; Missouri Association of Probate and Magistrate Judges Award of Merit, 1975; Congregation B'nai Amoona Award, 1976; and the Missouri Association for Mental Health Certificate of Commendation, n.d. Arranged chronologically.

FOLDER LIST

BOX 1 (02911)

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